

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 GSA-02 INT-08 AID-20 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SAM-01 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 L-03 H-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /200 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9524

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN GV

SUBJ: PROGRESS AT RUSSIAN BAUXITE MINING PROJECT, OBK

1. FIRST COUNSELLOR AT RUSSIAN EMBASSY , AGAPOV, IN CONVERSATION FEBRUARY 14 SAID RUSSIAN BAUXITE MINING ENTERPRISE OBK IS NOW EXPECTED TO BEGIN EXPORTING BAUXITE "SOMETIME IN MARCH". SOVIETS HAVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES WITH HEAVY ROCK FORMATIONS AT THREE PLACES ALONG RAILROAD LINE THEY ARE CONSTRUCTING FROM MINE SITE TO THEIR BAUXITE PIER AT CONAKRY HARBOR, WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSE OF DELAY. FACILITIES AT HARBOR ON OTHER HAND ARE NEARLY READY.

2. AS FOR TERMS OF RUSSIAN AGREEMENT WITH GUINEANS, AGAPOV SAID GUINEA WOULD HAVE RIGHT TO SELL 10 PER CENT OF PRODUCTION FOR ITS OWN ACCOUNT. HOW THIS WOULD BE DONE HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED. PROCEEDS FROM 19 PER CENT OF PRODUCTION WILL BE USED TO PAY OFF GUINEA'S DEBTS TO SOVIET UNION. WHILE HE WOULD NOT REVEAL SELLING PRICE, AGAPOV SAID PRICE HAD BEEN RAISED SOMEWHAT RECENTLY BECAUSE OF DOLLAR DEVALUATION AS PRICES HAD BEEN SET IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOLLARS BASED ON WORLD MARKET PRICE.

3. AGAPOV SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN FORTHCOMING MINISTERIAL MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BAUXITE PRODUCING COUNTRIES. HE APPEARED NOT TOO WELL-INFORMED ON MEETING BUT SAID SOVIETS ARE INTERESTED PARTICULARLY IN THE POSSIBILITY THAT PRODUCERS MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH PRICE. HE DID NOT FEEL THAT AT THIS STAGE THERE WAS ANY GREAT PROBABILITY THAT THIS WOULD BE DONE.

4. COMMENT: FROM OTHER SOURCES EMBOFFS HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT OBK WAS EVEN FARTHER BEHIND SCHEDULE AND THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH A DATE FOR FIRST SHIPMENTS. THE SAME SOURCES HAVE ALSO COMMENTED THAT COST OVERRUNS AT PROJECT HAD BEEN SIGNIFICANTM GIVEN THESE FACTORS WHICH ARE PROBABLY NEARER TRUTH AND LOW ORE CONTENT OF SOVIET BAUXITE DEPOSITS, SOVIETS MUST BE DESPERATE FOR BAUXITE OR FOR SOME FORM OF PAYMENT OF GUINEAN DEBTS.
HAVERKAMP

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Message Attributes

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